Do you have your traveler's towel ready?

The details

Changes to the 2015 kernel

1-col fig can come before earlier 2-col fig
Wrong header for two columns
No hyphenation in first word after float environment
\@discards spaces when moving
\@adpdynl ruini flush-bottom
\*symbol should use text symbols if possible
Check the optional arguments of floats
Allowing \textit to produce small caps, etc.
\textsubscript not defined in latex.ltx
\DeclareMathSizes only take points
Fewer fragile commands
it's only taken from 1999 to decide we might use the extended registers
Allocators for additional register types
Set codes for full Unicode range
Unicode font encodings assumed for these engines
we run and pass against e-TeX and XeTeX (with engine specific base results where needed)
but with LuaTeX we still fail over 100 (difficulties in normalizing logs mostly, although some may be LuaTeX bugs or real differences: to be determined)
regression test suite running against all formats
fair number if LuaTeX bugs found this way

Blunder control

enhancements / extensions / long-term bug fixes = release date change via latexrelease
oops = patch to existing release
latestrelease will always patch the kernel back to the latest patch level of a major release

Roll back - roll forward

1994 - 1996 (getting stable)
lots of activities
6 months release cycles
fixes no longer applied to the kernel

fixltx2e introduced
kernel / kernel + fixltx2e starts generating issues

1997 - 2014 (getting stale)
fixes no longer applied to the kernel

kernel / kernel + fixltx2e starts generating issues

2015 - ...
introducing a roll back / roll forward concept

First, it is slightly cheaper; and second, it has the words "Don't Panic" in large friendly letters inscribed on its cover.

Compatibility policy

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LaTeX 2.09 near the end of its life span
with different preloaded fonts
with different localizations
with or without NFSS

LaTeX2e to bring it all back together

multiple incompatible formats

Questions?

End of the EDS/HP chapter

... and now for a totally different topic